

REMARKS

The Notice of Omitted Items mailed April 1, 2004, indicates that Figs. 11-13 were not received by the PTO. As applicants' postcard receipt from the PTO is ambiguous, applicant cannot prove that Figs. 11-13 were filed with the present application as intended, even though our file copy is complete. Accordingly, applicants are presenting the missing Figs. 11-13 as an amendment to the present application.

Such amendment adding Figs. 11-13 does not constitute the introduction of prohibited new matter.

Applicants do not wish to accept the date of filing of Figs. 11-13 as the filing date of the present application, in view of the fact that these figures may be added without the introduction of prohibited new matter. Regardless of whether or not the addition of proposed new figures 11-13 are ultimately determined to contain new matter (contrary to the position of applicants as discussed below), applicants desire to maintain the original filing date of November 21, 2003, for all those papers filed on that date. If the added Figs. 11-13 are ultimately determined to contain new matter, applicants desire to retain the option of petitioning to have the papers of record as of the filing date of this amendment

be considered to be a CIP of the originally filed application.

In support of applicants' position that the addition of Figs. 11-13 does not add "new matter", applicants note as follows:

First, the three figures in question, namely figures 11-13, are well described in applicants' specification. Second, these figures are basically enlargements or details of parts which are already shown in other figures.

Thus, with respect to Fig. 11, other views are shown in Figs. 8 and 9, and a view of the pinion holder 6 in place is shown in Fig. 5.

The pinion 5 as shown in Figs. 12 and 13 is also well shown in Fig. 5 from the side (as it appears in Fig. 12), and from the top in Fig. 6, which shows substantially the same as what is shown in Fig. 13.

Everything described in the specification relative to Figs. 11-13, e.g. at pages 20, 24, 25, can also be seen in other figures as pointed out above.

Therefore, it should be clear that the addition of Figs. 11-13 does not constitute the introduction of prohibited new matter.

The applicants again respectfully note that they do not wish to accept option II of the Notice of Omitted Items, i.e. applicants wish to maintain the original filing date of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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